

Chepstow Archway Bridge Club
Minutes of Committee meeting 23rd July 2021
The Leys, Portwall Road

1. Current Situation of the Club.

SM reported a reduced membership of 63, with about half the members playing on line during the pandemic, and half have not been playing, are out of practice and may have lost confidence.

The survey of membership preference for when to play had a majority favouring Mondays and Wednesdays.

The Club finances had remained basically steady, as our outgoings had been much reduced and we had income coming in from on line play.

2. Planning for Reopening.

The situation with the Palmer Centre: The Palmer Centre has redecorated and upgraded the main hall where we used to play. The square tables have been replaced with narrow oblong table totally unsuited to playing duplicate bridge. SM was told there was insufficient storage space if we provided our own tables and that Monday evenings were not available. The Committee were informed and a search for a new venue began.

New Venue: SM visited two venues, the Methodist Church hall in Chepstow and the Meeting Rooms in St Arvans. The Methodist Church was more expensive than the Palmer Centre and was not available on Mondays. The Meeting Rooms had many positive points. It is smaller than the Palmer Centre, but has space enough for 9 tables. It has 14 car spaces and easy access, with a disabled toilet and a kitchen and a small additional room. The management were very helpful, and offered to buy more square tables and reconnect their internet for us. Monday and Wednesday evenings were available. They were prepared to sort out storage and allow a dedicated notice board. Their charge was 2/3rds of the Palmer Centre.

The Palmer Centre then contacted SM, saying they didn't want to lose our custom, and offered to store folding tables if we purchased them, and most Monday nights had become available.

The committee took a unanimous vote to move to the Meeting Rooms. SM will contact the Meeting Rooms management inform them of the decision and to set up the process of regular hire. SM then will inform the Palmer Centre of the decision.

Dates for Reopening: The Welsh Government is expected to review the Covid regulation on 7th August, so dates are provisional. There was a discussion about whether to start with one day a week or two days. A vote was taken and the majority favoured two nights, Monday and Wednesday. It was decided to reopen on Monday 6th of September.

Table Money: There was a lively discussion about how much to set the table money at. It is very uncertain how many members will resume playing. After dissecting the pros and cons there was a vote and it was decided to charge £3.

SM will write to the membership about reopening and phone those not on e mail.

3. On line Play: It was unanimously decided to continue Club teams on line in September, organised by DS. Wednesday Club nights would continue until reopening. There may be demand for more on line play, which is easy to arrange. RM thought two nights face to face would mean competitions would be live and not on line, but that can be revisited as we see how things progress.
4. Membership subscriptions: It was decided to not charge subscriptions for now as we need to see how reopening goes. SM wanted to change the date in line with WBU subs, which fall due in April. This was thought to be a good idea.
5. Next meeting: the date to be arrange, but will need to be before reopening.

In attendance: Sheila Montgomery (SM), Graham Eele (GE) Ray Mardon (RE) Sue Blake (SB) and Dave Smith (DS)